



A Century of Devotion & Religious Service for the Everett Community.





The information contained in this History has been cross-checked and confirmed as thoroughly as possible by Parish records, microfilm of newspaper articles and Archdiocesan Archive records of the Parish correspondence. Conversations with parishioners and discussions with the Historical Committee have been confirmed to the best of our ability. Because of the scope of the information and the lack of written records, errors and omissions of events may have occurred, if so, WE APOLOGIZE.

We acknowledge in grateful appreciation the material, clippings, pictures, snap-shots, and information for the 100-Year History of the Immaculate Conception Parish. To all of those who have given so generously of their time and help, WE THANK YOU.



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### **A Grateful Acknowledgement**

*The Immaculate Conception Parish and its Centennial Committee acknowledge with appreciation the generous donations of benefactors, sponsors and contributors that made the preparation and publication of this 100th Anniversary Booklet of our Parish possible.*

*We are equally grateful for the added donations that will permit the Parish to establish and furnish a non-denominational Meditation Center at the Whidden Memorial Hospital for the benefit of the people of Everett and surrounding communities as a living memorial of this important milestone in the history of our Parish.*

*We also acknowledge with thanks the cooperation of Hospital authorities who have made space available off the Main Lobby for this important new facility.*

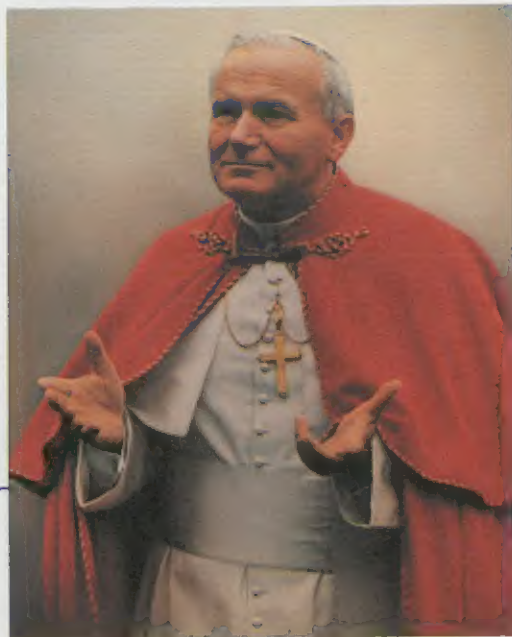
*Respectfully,*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH  
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

No. 142.895



FROM THE VATICAN, December 1, 1984

Dear Archbishop Law,

His Holiness Pope John Paul II has learned with joy that Immaculate Conception Parish in Everett is observing its Hundredth Anniversary.

As the faithful celebrate this important occasion the Holy Father gives the assurance of his prayerful solidarity. He offers thanks to God for the many graces bestowed on them during the past century. He is especially thankful that they have heard and embraced the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

It is the Holy Father's fervent hope that the whole Parish will rededicate itself with fresh zeal to its mission of evangelization, bearing witness by word and example to the Gospel message. He is confident that the members of the community will do everything possible to share the treasure of their faith with all those with whom they come into contact, and that they will pray perseveringly for the coming of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

With affection in the Lord Jesus, the Holy Father sends his greeting to all those assembled for this celebration and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

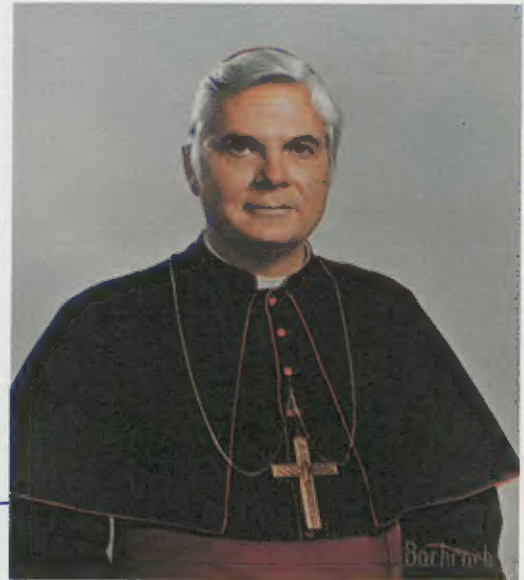
Assuring you of my own prayerful good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+E. Martinez  
Substitute

The Most Reverend Bernard F. Law  
Archbishop of Boston  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02135





**ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE**

2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

January 2, 1985

The Reverend Edmund J. Sviokla  
Immaculate Conception Rectory  
489 Broadway  
Everett, MA 02149

Dear Father Sviokla:

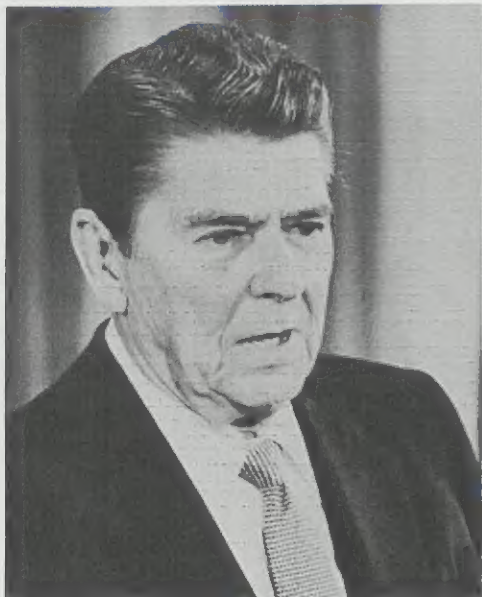
On the happy occasion of your Centennial celebration of Immaculate Conception Parish, it gives me great pleasure to offer you and the priests, religious and faithful members of the Parish my sincere and heartfelt congratulations.

This milestone is a tribute to many people, living and dead, and at this significant time it will be my privilege to remember all of them in a special way in my Masses and prayers. It is my prayer that our Blessed Lord, through the intercession of His Immaculate Mother, will reward them for their goodness as only He can.

With warm personal regards, and asking God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Bernard J. Law*  
Archbishop of Boston



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 23, 1984

To the Congregation of  
Immaculate Conception Church:

Congratulations on the occasion of your 100th anniversary.

Religious faith has always been the essence of strength for free peoples. As guardians of this faith, our churches and synagogues seek to continually renew the spirit of brotherhood, family, and concern for one's fellowman embodied in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This is the spirit that built and preserved our freedom and made us a humane and God-fearing people. From early times the fire of faith has burned brightly all across this land, and as long as it lives, so will the America we cherish.

As we commemorate this anniversary, let us all resolve to revitalize the spirit of community which sustains us. Let our wisdom be vindicated by our deeds. And when our work is done and the busy world is hushed, then may God in His mercy give us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last.

Again, congratulations and God bless you.

*Ronald Reagan*





*Immaculate  
100<sup>th</sup> Conception  
Everett*

489 Broadway, Everett, Massachusetts 02149

Telephone (617) 389-5660

My dear Parishioners:

The privilege of being Pastor of any parish as it celebrates its Centennial is very special, the privilege of being Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish of Everett is most special for many reasons. As you read through the history so beautifully written in this book, I am sure that you will heartily agree with me.

One hundred years ago, our parish was established by Archbishop Williams and Father Mohan was given the responsibility of caring for 1100 people that lived in all of Everett and Revere. Now 100 years later, we have over 2000 families in our parish plus 3 other established parishes in Everett. Such a manifestation of deep faith and sacrifice of so many brings with it a profound sense of gratitude and challenge.

Gratitude to the countless thousands for their singlemindedness to make their faith a visible reality. Not only in erecting buildings to worship in, to teach our children, to house our sisters and priests and to socialize in, but more importantly to grow and mature as a people of God forming the visible Body of Christ; you are reaching out and welcoming new members, celebrating significant passages, sharing the Word and the Word Made Flesh, and always, fulfilling St. Paul's command "to never forget the poor."

As we move into the 2nd hundred years, a challenge to continue to grow in this spirit is before us. No one knows what the future will bring but we do know that faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ will overcome all obstacles. Certainly there will be many more changes that will threaten us, many different personalities to adjust to, and many sacrifices that will test the best of us. But we are a "remembering people" whose tradition can only strengthen and sustain us all.

Our most grateful thanks to Almighty God for His countless blessings and inspiration for completing these past 100 years so admirably. We beg Him for continued strength, vigor and direction as we begin our next 100 years and through the intercession of His Son, Our Lord and Brother, Jesus Christ, may our Patroness, The Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.

Gratefully yours in Christ, I remain

Sincerely,

Rev. Edmund J. Sviokla  
Pastor

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## Pastors



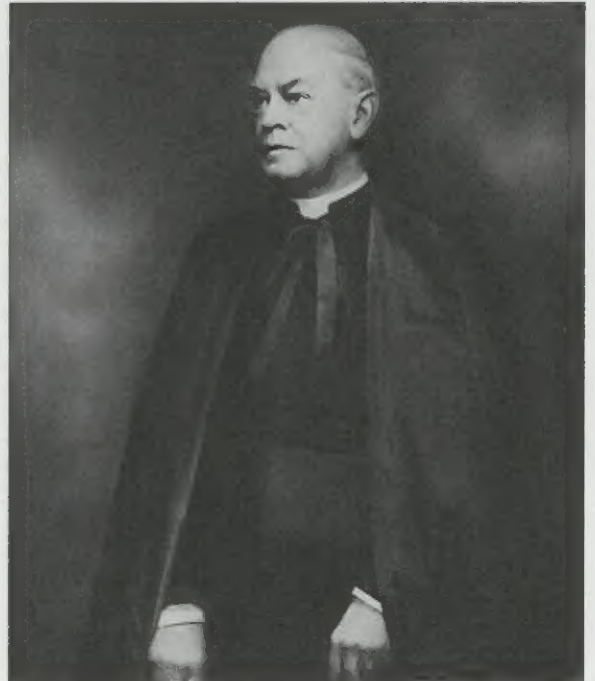
Reverend Joseph F. Mohan  
1885-1920



Reverend Joseph V. Fitzgerald  
1920-1923



Reverend Patrick H. Riley  
1923-1928

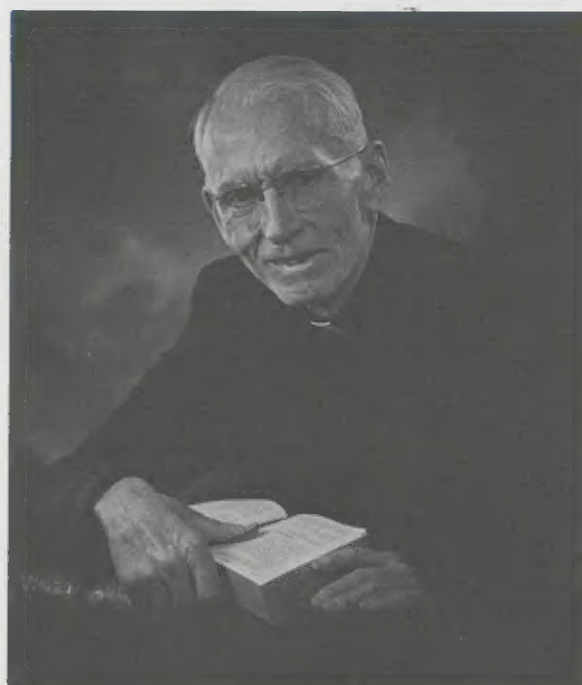


Rev. Monsignor Thomas J. McCormack  
1928-1953





Rev. Monsignor Edward M. Hartigan  
1953-1970

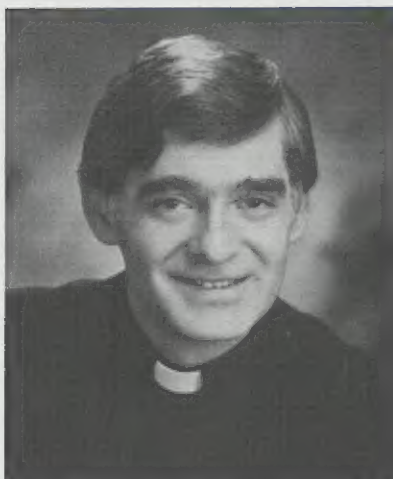


Reverend John J. Sheehan  
1970-1977



Reverend Edmund J. Sviokla  
1977-Present

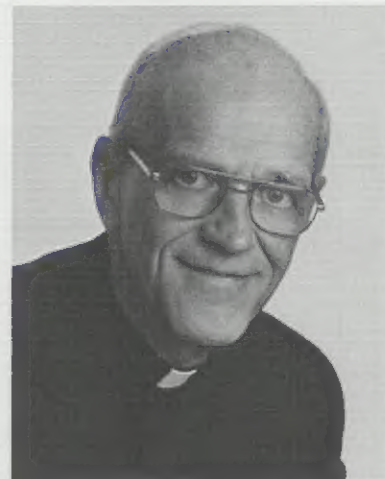
## Priests



Reverend Peter J. Casey



Reverend Joseph Crehan, S.S.C.



Reverend Thomas M. McCabe



Reverend George E. Morin



Reverend Joseph O'Sullivan

## Priests Who Have Served Our Parish

Reverend Joseph Bonner\*  
 Reverend Michael G. Boughton, S.J.  
 Reverend Myron Bullock  
 Reverend Michael A. Butler\*  
 Reverend John J. Carroll  
 Reverend Peter J. Casey  
 Reverend William J. Clarke\*  
 Reverend William Commene  
 Reverend Edward F. Cornell  
 Reverend Robert Costello  
 Reverend John A. Coughlin  
 Reverend Joseph Crehan, S.S.C.  
 Reverend Gerald Desmond\*  
 Reverend John Donlan\*  
 Reverend Thomas Dwyer  
 Reverend James J. Farrell\*  
 Reverend John Flynn\*  
 Reverend Gerald Fitzgerald

Reverend John J. Fogarty  
 Reverend Kenneth German  
 Reverend James Gilday\*  
 Reverend Calvin Goodwin, S.J.  
 Reverend David R. Heffernan\*  
 Reverend Bernard Herlihy  
 Reverend Vincent Hickey\*  
 Reverend Michael Higgins  
 Reverend Neil Hurley\*  
 Reverend Thomas Kennedy\*  
 Reverend James Kenny  
 Reverend Thomas Lane\*  
 Reverend Msgr. Walter Leach  
 Reverend Dennis F. Lee\*  
 Reverend Francis Leonard  
 Reverend Thomas M. McCabe  
 Reverend Joseph McCall\*  
 Reverend James A. McHugh



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Reverend William Maguire\*  
Reverend George E. Morin  
Reverend John F. Mulloy  
Reverend George Murphy  
Reverend William O'Neil\*  
Reverend Joseph O'Sullivan

Reverend Ernest Pearsall  
Reverend William Schmidt  
Reverend Edward Tining\*  
Reverend Raymond Valle  
Reverend Msgr. Thomas Wilkinson  
Reverend George Wiseman\*

\* Deceased

### **Superiors and Principals Who Have Served**

1920 Sister Magdalen, C.S.J.  
1922 Sister Simplicia, C.S.J.  
1925 Sister Perpetua, C.S.J.  
1931 Sister M. Florence, C.S.J.  
1937 Sister Agnes Redempta, C.S.J.  
1943 Sister St. Thomas, C.S.J.  
1946 Sister Iranaeus, C.S.J.

1952 Sister Maureen, C.S.J.  
1958 Sister Evelyn, C.S.J.  
1964 Sister Luella, C.S.J.  
1970 Sister Mary Myles, C.S.J.  
1976 Sister Margaret Anne Roache, C.S.J.  
1979 to present Sister Clair Mahan, OP

### **Parishioners Entered Convent**

Sister Alice Mary Brady, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Claire Cuilla, L.S.A.  
Sister Mary Waltrude Dennis, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Ellis Denny, S.S.N.D.  
Sister Eleanor Doyle, D.C.  
Sister Carmelita Dunn, S.C.N.  
Sister Frances Michael Driscoll, S.P.  
Sister Bernadette Gallagher, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Clare Goudey, C.S.J.  
Sister Doreen Hardy, P.S.D.P.  
Sister Marjorie Harrison, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Vincent Hodgekiss, R.S.M.  
Sister Katherine Hughes, P.B.V.M.  
Sister Rose of Lima La Bella, P.M.  
Sister Margaret Mallet, S.C.N.  
Sister Scholastic Marshall, R.S.M.

Sister Mary Alacoque Marshall, R.S.M.  
Sister Andrea McCarte, D.C.  
Sister Mary Amato McGee, R.S.M.  
Sister Patricia Ann McGinnis, O.S.F.  
Sister Jean Mulloy, C.S.J.  
Sister Agnes Cecelia Mulrennan, C.S.J.  
Sister Joan Murphy, S.N.D.  
Sister Maureen O'Keefe, P.S.D.P.  
Sister Alberta Marie Olsen, C.S.J.  
Sister Kathleen Parris, S.G.M.  
Sister Eucharista Pigeon, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Patricia Reavey, C.S.J.  
Sister Mary Anastasia Shea, C.S.J.  
Sister Julia Marie Sullivan, S.N.D.  
Sister Barbara Whalen, C.S.J.

### **Parishioners Who Entered and Celebrated First Mass**

Reverend William Babb, S.J.  
Reverend Charles Bergstrom, O.M.I.  
Reverend Paul Bolduc  
Reverend Roger Brady  
Reverend Walter E. Casey  
Reverend John Cunningham  
Reverend George DeNapoli, S.J.  
Reverend John Doherty, C.S.S.R.  
Reverend Francis Duggan  
Brother David Gallagher, C.S.S.  
Reverend Joseph Gaudet  
Reverend Frederick Gilbert, O.M.I.  
Reverend Francis Gilday, S.J.  
Reverend Charles J. Healey, S.J.

Reverend Cornelius Hogan (Ret.)  
Reverend John A. McCabe, M.M.  
Reverend James McGee, O.M.I.  
Reverend John McLaughlin  
Reverend Thomas Manning, O.M.I.  
Reverend William Meninger, O.C.S.O.  
Brother Thomas Mulloy, C.F.X.  
Reverend John Philbin  
Reverend Bertrand Richman  
Reverend Joseph Stack, O.M.I.  
Reverend Francis V. Strahan  
Reverend Donald Sullivan  
Reverend Robert Supple (Deceased)







## Parish History

### Prologue

God has truly blessed His Church and His people as we commemorate 100-Years of success in carrying out the Word of the Lord in the Parish of the Immaculate Conception. The Parish, founded in 1885, has remained both strong and faithful during the trying period of radical change in Catholic Church customs, the changing economy and uncertain world conditions of today. We are both grateful and happy for the graces bestowed on this Parish. Though the names of the pastors, priests, sisters and parishioners have changed through the years, the love and devotion to our Church remains constant.

### Founding Years

The Immaculate Conception Parish has an exciting history that dates back to the early 1870's. At that time, Everett, having separated from the Town of Malden on March 9, 1870, was a small agricultural community. Where the Immaculate Conception Church and Rectory now stand, was an estate owned by the Oakes Family. The new town had five Protestant Churches. The religious community had developed while Everett was still a part of Malden and continued after the separation. There was no Catholic Church building nor any Catholic clergyman in the town. The four-hundred

Catholics of Everett walked or rode by carriage to Chelsea, Malden or Charlestown to participate in the celebration of Mass. This would be considered a hardship by most of us today, however, in 1875, Catholics made the trip willingly to receive the ministrations of their Church. For the most part, life in Everett was characterized by citizen participation with teas, lectures, balls, concerts and literary meetings being the order of the day.

New England had been proclaimed an Archdiocese by Pope Pius IX. Boston was made its seat, and the Archbishop was John J. Williams in 1875. Recognizing the need for religious accommodations for the Catholics of Everett, the Archbishop designated Father James McGlew of Chelsea to celebrate Mass in Everett. The first Catholic Mass was celebrated in Everett on July 9, 1876, in the Town Hall. Everett's Catholic population at that time was six-hundred. A Sunday School was organized on the same date, with William J. Powers as Superintendent and Miss Annette S. Hoogs (Mrs. F.F. Driscoll) as assistant. The Sunday School enrollment grew from 78 pupils to 438 and by 1892 there were more than forty teachers. A choir was also organized in 1876, with Miss Annette S. Hoogs as organist. A Sunday School library was begun in 1885, with Mrs. D.W. Fitzgerald being appointed as librarian.

While Everett was growing as a city, great strides had been made across the nation. The Civil Rights Act, guaranteeing equal rights in public places regardless of

color, and forbidding exclusion of Negroes from jury duty, was passed in 1875. By 1876, free public education for both Whites and Negroes was mandatory in nearly every state. In the same year Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone and a new era in communications had begun.

On July 13, 1877, Father McGlew received authorization to purchase from Benjamin Hadley 12,160 square feet of land on Broadway "near Mansfield Court" for a Church. On this lot of land, ground was broken for St. Mary's Church. A month later, on Christmas Day, 1877, Father McGlew celebrated Mass in the basement of the unfinished Church. The Church took five years to complete and was dedicated on May 14, 1882 by Archbishop Williams. The new Church was a mission Church, attached to the Chelsea Parish. The small Church of wooden construction was set upon a slight rise in the ground. One entered by a high flight of stairs with two large gothic doors, above which were two stained glass



windows. The small vestibule had a peaked roof, backed by a higher peaked roof of the main building upon which a gold cross was mounted. Six stained glass windows on each side furnished lighting. Although Thomas A. Edison had invented the light bulb in 1879, records indicate electricity was not available in Everett until 1886. Gas interior lighting had been introduced in 1880.

Of notable interest Anna I. Chisholm was born on August 2, 1882 and is believed to be the oldest living member of this original mission Church. Anna Chisholm (later Mrs. Francis J. Dooley) was baptized at St. Rose's Church in Chelsea, since baptisms could not be performed at mission churches at that time.



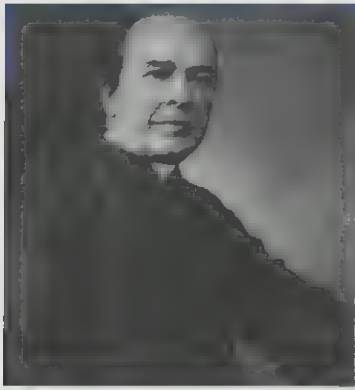
## 1885

With the advent of horse cars and later street car lines, Everett began to change from an agricultural community to an industrial town with 44 manufacturing establishments. In 1885, when the Catholics in Everett numbered 1100, Father McGlew requested that the Archbishop designate Everett a full-fledged parish. Everett and Revere combined into one parish, with Reverend Joseph F. Mohan as Pastor, thus inaugurating the first 100 years of our parish of the Immaculate Conception Church. Revere remained a part of the Everett Parish until June 15, 1889. Records indicate that in 1885 Father Mohan purchased property on Webster Street for use as a rectory. The house was described as a french roofed frame building in a "happy location with neat surroundings".



Within a very short time, the parishioners formed supporting societies. The Holy Name Society, having as its President Mr. S. F. Hoogs, and the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality, with its Prefect being Mrs. F.F. Driscoll, were organized in 1886. On October 29, 1887, a concise summary of the religious status of Everett appeared in print in pages of the **Everett Herald**, a local





newspaper. It showed the average attendance at services for all denominations in Everett at that time.

Society	Number at Church Services
St. Mary's Catholic	1800
First Congregational	354
First Baptist	325
First Methodist	300
First Universalist	150
Grace Episcopal	120
Courtland St. Congregational	100
Glendale Baptist	100
Advent	55
Mystic-Side Congregational	54
Disciples of Christ	40

In 1889 a religious census conducted by the Y.M.C.A. revealed Everett's total population to be 10,000 persons, 2,380 of whom were Catholic, and 7,620 of whom were Protestant. The count included every man, woman and child who had been baptized into a particular Church.

306 BROADWAY, CHELSEA, MASS

**NELSON BROTHERS,**  
Opticians

FOR the first time, the Catholics of Everett are to come together in a grand Parish Picnic, and it is hoped that the event will be a notable one which can be looked back to with pride and pleasure by all who participate. That it may be a grand social success it will be necessary to have the cooperation of every member of the parish, who, by their attendance in large numbers at the picnic on the day of the picnic, their zeal in disposing of tickets, and their willingness to assist the different committees in all that they may deem for the best interests of the occasion, may show their appreciation of the work being done.

The object of the picnic is a noble one: the proceeds going toward the fund for the completion of that grand temple being erected in our city—the church of the Immaculate Conception which has been brought to its present state of completion by the indefatigable zeal and energy of our beloved pastor, Father Mohan.

On the result of all our best efforts will undoubtedly depend the successful consummation of our project. We do hope that our efforts will be successful that the business of our beloved pastor may be lightened, which will be but righteously our own; and that after enjoying such an outing, we may return to our homes with feelings of appreciation for a day well done.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

everybody on their own terms

**HOMES**

**WILLIAM P. COLLINS,**  
DRUG BROKER AND EVERETT

All locations and prices

Archbishop Williams purchased 24,000 additional square feet of land adjacent to the wooden church on January 27, 1891. This newly acquired property made ample provision for the future. The value of the church property, including the residence of the clergy, was about \$30,000. The land included an area of 36,191 square feet of land on Broadway. No attempt was made

to build on this land for over four years. In the meantime, Father Mohan continued to build up the parish. His efforts culminated in the formation of St. Mary's Catholic Lyceum in 1891, and the Knights of Columbus, in 1894. The Catholic population now numbered 3,000 persons. The small wooden church, even with extra Masses, was unable to accommodate the increase in parishioners, and in 1895 Archbishop Williams granted permission to build a new Church.

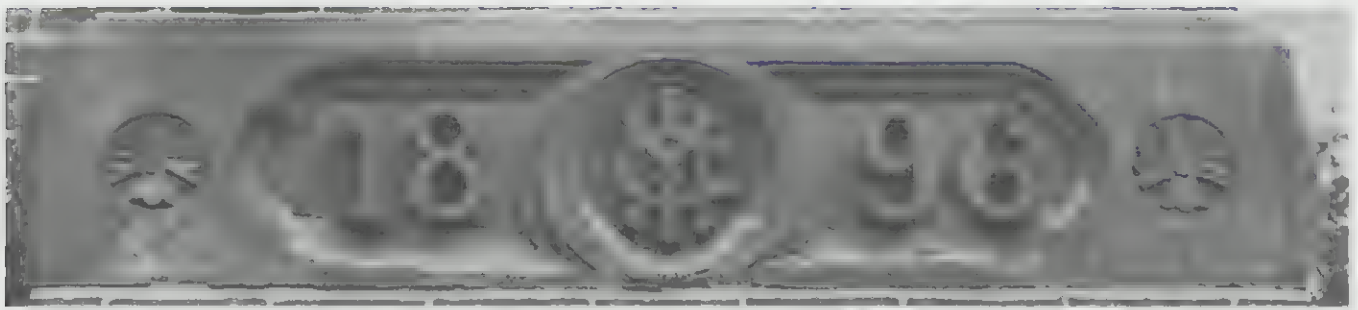
### Early Years

On June 22, 1895 a building permit was issued and a contract for \$50,000 was signed with Herman Drake. The following is an account, taken in part, from the **EVERETT REPUBLICAN** dated October 24, 1896:

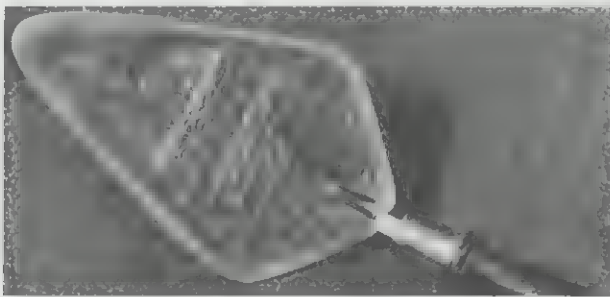
"It was only twenty years ago last July that the Roman Catholic people of Everett held their first Catholic Service. Last Sunday, in the presence of three thousand people, there was laid the beautiful corner stone of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and edifice that is to represent generous and self-sacrificing gifts and whose gothic stateliness and beauty will make it one of the very finest ecclesiastical edifices in the state. The humble building of which the splendid new church is the outgrowth and successor, was consecrated as St. Mary's Church in 1882, by Most Reverend Archbishop Williams and given into the pastoral care of Reverend Joseph F. Mohan. It was an added and interesting feature of the ceremonies of Sunday that the same venerable prelate and the same honored and beloved pastor should be the leading figures in the solemn and impressive rites with which the corner stone of the newer and grander house of worship was laid. The solemn prayers, the swinging censurs, the splendid vestments of the celebrants, the beauty and impressiveness of the music, all the stately ceremonial of the church, marked the occasion and made it a red letter day in the history of St. Mary's parish, an event interesting to all, regardless of church or creed, who are concerned in the religious growth of our city. As a protection against possible inclement weather the entire first floor of the structure was securely tented; and over the front central entrance, near the corner stone, and covering the temporarily erected pulpit were draped the stars and stripes. These were the only decorations. The exercises were begun promptly at 3:00 o'clock with singing by the church choir. At the close of the eloquent and impressive sermon, "Ave Maris Stella" was beautifully rendered by the church choir under the direct supervision of Mrs. F.F. Driscoll. The ceremony of laying the corner stone was performed by the Archbishop, arrayed in the full regalia of his high office, the stone was blessed and set in position."







The trowel used in positioning the stone was made of gold with a gold tipped ebony handle and bears an exquisite engraving of the Church as it would appear when completed. It was given to the parishioner who donated the largest amount of money towards the fund for the erection of the new building. The trowel was later



inscribed with the name of Frederick Driscoll and is housed at this time in the Archives of the Rectory. The corner stone was of brown stone and of extraordinary size, handsomely chiseled, bearing the figures 1896 and the monogram I.C.M. in bold relief. Beneath the stone was placed a metal plate upon which were inscribed the names of the Church, the Pastor, Rev. Joseph F. Mohan, his assistant, Rev. James J. Farrell, the President of the United States, Grover Cleveland, and the Governor of Massachusetts. Since we cannot examine the metal plate, it is interesting to note that the name of the Governor of Massachusetts is questionable. Frederick T. Greenhalge was Governor in 1896, but died in office on March 5 of that year. Roger Wolcott was Acting Governor for the remaining year of his term, and was not elected Governor until 1897. The names of the Mayor of Everett, John D. Henderson, and Archbishop Williams also appeared on the plate. In addition, the names of the architect, P.W. Ford, the contractor, K. Driscoll and the carpenter, H. Drake of Everett, were listed. Enclosed with the plate were proof coins of that year's mintage, prepared especially for the occasion in Philadelphia, a Columbian half-dollar, and copies of the Boston daily newspapers, the **EVERETT REPUBLICAN**, **EVERETT HERALD**, **BOSTON PILOT**, **BOSTON REPUBLIC** and **THE SACRED HEART REVIEW**.

The new Church was built on the site of the wooden Church. When construction of the new Church began, the small wooden Church was moved to the left of the

building site, and the Catholics of the area were able to continue to worship. The new Church was Gothic in theme, but the transepts were modeled after an old Scottish Church. Seating for 1,000 adults was provided, 123 bay and 37 bay perpendicular tracery windows, temporarily of plain glass, but later to be of stained glass, lighted the auditorium. The interior was constructed of unbled Georgia Pine and quartered oak, in tints of buff and gray, lightly treated with gold. The floors were of the best North Carolina finished pine of rift-grain, kiln-dried. The wainscoting was of North Carolina  $\frac{7}{8}$  pine. The walls were erected first, and the vestry fitted for use while the balance of the Church was finished. The work progressed with systematic exactness that was unequaled since Gothic Churches were fitted together brick after brick, mortared with precision.



On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1897, the first Mass was celebrated. The following is taken, in part, from the **EVERETT HERALD** dated Friday, April 23, 1897.

"A pleasanter Easter Sunday has seldom been seen and it was made the most of. Of special interest is that St. Mary's Church and Society worshipped in the vestry of their new edifice for the first time. By the most superhuman energy the vestry was prepared at a late hour Saturday night for occupancy and for the first time on Sunday was filled to repletion by the members. It is a room of magnificent proportions. The altar was decorated with several fine pieces of new paraphernalia, with a profusion of flowers. The new bell sounded sweet and sonorous. The Pastor and the people were overflowing with thankfulness for the success of their efforts."



The bell, weighing 3,500 lbs was presented by Mr. W. F. Green, and blessed in honor of Mary Immaculate on September 19, 1897. As a note of interest, the following are a few items and their cost in 1897: electric wiring of the entire Church \$930.00, lighting fixtures \$243.00, slate roof for Church \$3,559.00 and ruby redstone bricks \$4,837.00. Three years later, when the Church was completed the debt was said to be \$65,000. The debt was paid in full by March 11, 1904. 5,000 persons attended four Masses on each Sunday in that year.

With the Church completed, the next order of business was a new rectory, which Father Mohan had built on land adjacent to the new Church. The Pastor and his assistant occupied the new rectory in April, 1905. The cost of the rectory is said to have been \$25,000. Father Mohan also purchased the Y.M.C.A. building on Chelsea Street at this time. The building was to be used as a hall, known affectionately as the "Parish Hall". This hall was used for all social activities of the day. An early description is not available, but we



know that by the mid-twenties there was a stage and an auditorium on the second floor. In the basement were bowling alleys for the use of the parishioners. The bowling alleys were used extensively. Many a would-be quiet meeting would be held on the first floor while from the basement could be heard the clatter and crash of the bowling pins. The floors and walls would echo as the bowling leagues matched team to team in fierce competition. The bowling alleys were removed during extensive renovations in the late 1960's.





In 1908, Father Mohan contracted to have a beautiful pipe organ built. The organ would have two manuals and 29 registers. Built by Hook and Hasting Company of Kendal Green (Weston, Massachusetts) the action

was originally a tubular pneumatic design that has since been replaced by an electric action. It has approximately 1,170 pipes. The organ is valued at \$180,000 at present.



was erected within the building. Sister Magdalen was the first Superior. Grade 1 was taught by Sisters Irma and Margaret Louise; Grade 2 by Sisters William Francis and Rose Angela, and the music teacher was Sister Stella Vincent.

The history of the Sisters of St. Joseph dates back to 1847 in France when the Sisters were sent from Carondelet to Philadelphia. In 1851, they established a Brooklyn, New York Foundation. The Sisters of St. Joseph came to the Archdiocese of Boston on October 2, 1873. Four nuns made their home in a little house on St. Joseph Street, St. Thomas Parish, Jamaica Plain. Sister Mary Regis, the first superior, became Mother Regis, Foundress of the Boston Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have molded the religious and moral characters of hundreds of our children through the years. The apostolate of the Sisters has been a spiritual and academic one and has been the pride of our parish. The influence of the Sisters is evidenced by the number of priests and religious who received their early education at the Immaculate Conception School. The School also boasts of hundreds of lay people who are leaders in the business world, as well as in the service of our country and of God. The devotion of the Sisters in guiding and administering to the educational needs of their pupils is self evident. We are very grateful to the Sisters for the immense contribution they have made to our parish.

In February of 1922, Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald, Pastor, dedicated the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which stands on the lawn between the Immaculate Conception Church and rectory. The statue is of Carrara marble, imported from Italy, and is based on a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Murillo. The sculptor was Nardini, a Boston man who did the work in



Italy. The statue, including the pedestal, is 13½ feet high and depicts the Virgin Mary surrounded by angels. Father Fitzgerald delivered the address, stating that he believed the statue was probably the only one of its kind in all of Massachusetts. The children of the junior section of the Immaculate Conception Sunday School sang under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The children of the parish were the donors of the gift.

By June 13, 1922, according to newspaper reports of that date, plans had been completed for the new elementary school building and the contract was signed. The plans called for a 16-room building, two stories high, with the front on Summer Street and the side on Clinton Street. The building, expected to be ready for occupancy by September 1, would cost







nearly \$200,000. The school did not open that year, but in September of 1923 it did open with four grades. Father Mohan's dream had been realized and Father Fitzgerald's zealous work brought to fruition. As soon as the new school was completed and opened, the Sunday School classes were held there. Prior to this time, the Sunday School classes were held each week at the church, following the children's Mass. The education of the parish children who do not attend parochial school had continued for many years under the loving care of the Sisters of St. Joseph and selected members of the laity.

In 1923, Father Fitzgerald, a faithful and devoted pastor, was called to his eternal reward. At his burial Mass the church was filled, a testimony of love and gratitude from priests, religious and lay people. Father Patrick H. Riley was named his successor.

The first Catholic Church in Everett, was St. Mary's which was erected in 1877. In 1913 Our Lady of Grace Church was built on Nichols Street to serve Catholics of that area. In 1919 St. Joseph's National Parish (French) was founded, and a church built on the old True property on Bucknam Street. In 1927, the Parish of St. Anthony (Italian) remodeled the former Broadway Theatre and founded a Church. In 1928, the Parish of Saint Therese of the Little Flower was founded but the church was not completed until 1929.



Father Riley was pastor during the prosperous and inflationary years. He requested and was granted permission to repair the convent at a cost of \$10,000. The convent was in need of renovation since classes were no longer being held there. The lower portion of the convent was converted to living quarters which included a chapel, and the upper portion for sleeping quarters. Many other renovations and improvements were made during these years, including at a cost of \$5,000, the installation of pews in the lower church, as well as the replacement of the boiler. In 1928, after a very brief pastorate, Father Riley died. Short though his time as Pastor had been, many were his accomplishments.

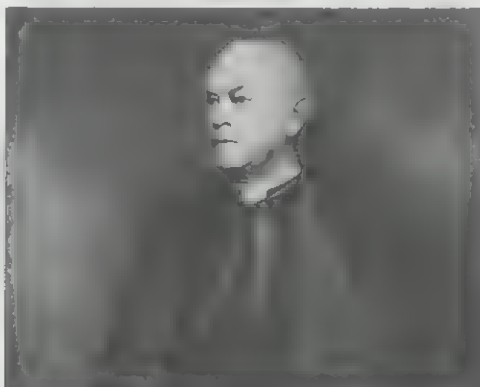


The first graduation from the Immaculate Conception Grammar School was held in 1928; the class consisted of 30 boys and 38 girls. Exercises took place on a Sunday after the 10:00 AM Mass. Father Hartigan celebrated the Mass and preached the sermon. Father Hartigan was intensely interested in the youth of the parish and had worked diligently with Father Fitzgerald and Father Riley in raising the necessary funds to purchase the convent and the school. He spoke of the fidelity that youth should have for the ideals of Catholic education. The acting pastor, Father Flynn, also addressed the congregation. He urged the graduates to be faithful to their responsibilities as exemplars of Catholic education. Father Flynn gave the Benediction assisted by Father Hartigan and Father Vincent Hickey. Each year the staff and enrollment increased in numbers and accomplishments. Each pastor was most diligent in equipping the school with the best in education materials.

Succeeding Father Riley was Father Thomas J. MacCormack in 1928. Father MacCormack studied at Boston College and St. John's Seminary and was ordained by Archbishop Williams. Before coming to Everett, he had been secretary to Archbishop Williams, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Pastor of St. Catherine's Church in Norwood and Pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Charlestown. His years would mark difficult times, since the depression was in full swing. In 1929, however, with much foresight, he purchased a two-apartment frame house adjacent to the church. He planned to use the property for a future convent. Many activities began to develop in the parish during Father MacCormack's pastorate, including The



Boys' Brigade, Single Ladies Sodality, Married Women's Sodality, The Everett Catholic Club, as well as the continuation of the organizations previously listed in this history. Father MacCormack redecorated the interior of the upper church, for the first time since it was built, at a cost of \$1,500. He expended another \$1,500 for making necessary changes in the exits from the church by order of the Fire Commissioner. This involved removing radiators, changing the heating system, shortening the Communion rail, enlarging the stairways and replacing the carpeted floors with tile. In 1939, he made the very necessary repairs in the classrooms of the school building where nothing had been done since the opening of the school, at a cost of \$2,100. The parishioners did much of the work for



Father MacCormack and thus he never incurred any debts while improving the church property. All expenses were met by donations in the Sunday collections. Father MacCormack continued to guide his flock through those dark depression years. While material wealth was scarce, there was a wealth of spiritual dedication.

In 1939, when Cardinal O'Connell elevated Father MacCormack to the rank of Monsignor, Monsignor MacCormack was appointed to the body of ecclesiastical leaders who served as consultors to the Archbishop.

During the years that followed, many additional organizations were founded. Some examples are: The Little Flower Sodality, St. Aloysius Boys' Sodality, Sea Scouts, The Knights of St. John, Promoters of the Propagation of the Faith, The Children of Mary, St. Mary's Infant Asylum and the Tabernacle Society.

Sadness prevailed on December 7, 1941, the "Day of Infamy", when President Roosevelt announced the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. During the tragic years of World War II, the parishes of the country became one with the single purpose of waging war and winning the peace. Many men and women of our parish served, some never to return. Many worked in factories, or helped in blood drives, scrap metal drives or the Red Cross. The parish conducted paper drives in conjunction with the Archdiocese to help in the war effort. In 1945, after four years of bloodshed and deprivation, with the support and prayers of Americans everywhere, peace was finally achieved.

The years following World War II brought another upsurge in parish activities. The Christian Doctrine Discussion group was formed. The C.Y.O., presenting musicals and variety shows, was very active. The Holy Name Society had an active bowling league and was campaigning vigorously against indecent literature. The newly organized scouting program was started for the boys and girls of the parish. In 1947, in a very crowded church filled with parishioners, Monsignor MacCormack celebrated his 80th birthday. Even though he was advanced in years, he continued to lead his parishioners in a very active parish.



The peace was short-lived, for again on June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. Under President Harry S. Truman, the United States sent men into the "police action" to support South Korea. Though we do not have the names of all the parishioners from the Immaculate Conception Parish who gave their lives for our country, they will always be remembered in our prayers. On January 6, 1953, the Feast of the Epiphany, Monsignor MacCormack resigned as Pastor, after serving our parish for twenty-five years. Monsignor continued in residence at the rectory.

On March 24, 1953, the beloved Monsignor MacCormack died in his sleep at the rectory. He had been in poor health since November of 1952. Distinguished members of the clergy and hundreds of parishioners paid final homage to the truly great and brilliant prelate who had devoted 60 of his 85 years to the holy priesthood.

### **A Time Of Growth**

To succeed Monsignor MacCormack as Pastor, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing named Father Edward M. Hartigan, a priest well known to the parish from his earlier service as an assistant. Father Hartigan entered St. John's Seminary from the military life at West Point. As classmates at West Point, he and future 5-star General and President, Dwight Eisenhower were members of the class "the stars shone upon". Father Hartigan first came to this parish following his ordination in 1917. He left for the service during World War I and was commissioned Lieut-Chaplain in August of 1918. Following the war, he returned to the



Immaculate Conception Parish and resumed his duties as curate, organizing the famous Boys' Brigade and two bands. He served as spiritual director of the Catholic Club, Supervisor of the Sunday School and Founder-Director of Camp-Cedar Crest at Green Harbor. After Father Hartigan had served for twenty-two years as curate and assistant pastor, Archbishop Cushing appointed him pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Ashland and later St. Jerome's Church in North Weymouth, before returning him to the Immaculate Conception as Pastor. The parishioners were delighted with the appointment of their new Pastor, their old friend.







The 1950's brought about the flight of the middle class to the suburbs, but in spite of the diminishing population in Everett, our parish activities grew. The C.Y.O. had a very active Drill Team and Band. There were also a Young Adult Group, Married Couples Discussion Group, Bridge-Whist parties and Penny Sales that were very popular and well attended.



Father Hartigan dearly loved the children of the parish. It was during his years as Pastor that the Band flourished and scouting became a very important part

of the parish activities. Athletics for the youth became very popular. Basketball, baseball, hockey were a few of the sport activities. Continuing under the leadership of Father Hartigan, Camp Cedar Crest was available for vacations for many of the youth in the parish. Camp Cedar Crest had its beginning with tents without floors. Later tents with wooden floors developed into tents with wooden sides and finally concrete huts with wooden roofs were built. All were constructed by the men of the parish. There were many devoted men and women of the parish who gave their time and energies to make this Camp for the children a delightful summer retreat. No records exist to accurately name all the wonderful people who made Cedar Crest a success.

In September of 1957, Archbishop Cushing announced that Father Hartigan had been elevated by Pope Pius XII to domestic prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Time had taken its toll on the interior of the church, and repairs and refurbishing were in order. Under Monsignor Hartigan's direction, the interior of the church was repainted, the rectory redecorated, heating systems repaired, major renovations in the convent undertaken, and both the upper and lower sanctuaries of the church beautified. In addition, work was needed on the church tower at an estimated cost of \$55,610. New copper gutters, snow rails and crickets on five sections of the roof were installed. In March of 1961 permission was granted to the City of Everett to take 150 square feet of Church property for the widening of the corner of Broadway and Mansfield Street. In 1963, the entire upper church was repainted and the benches were stripped and varnished. The church had been restored to its original exquisite beauty.



### The Era of Vatican II

The Sixties for our church, the country, the world, saw an astonishing number of turning points. It was a time of total openness and instant communication. One of Pope John XXIII's first interests upon his ascent to the Pontiff's throne in 1958 had been the convening of an Ecumenical Council. One of the first acts of John F. Kennedy, first Catholic President of the United States, was the creation of the Peace Corps. The world was coming closer to unity and brotherhood. Ecumenism was becoming a byword.

Tragedy struck in June of 1963 with the death of Pope John XXIII, followed by the assassination of President Kennedy in November. The American people had just begun to realize that a Catholic American could be both a practicing Catholic and an effective President at the same time.

In 1965 approximately 2,500 prelates gathered in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. At the Council, Catholic Church issued historic resolutions on religious freedom. These resolutions have had a tremendous effect on American Catholicism. The Council endorsed some important liturgical changes: English replaced the traditional Latin used in the Mass, and parishioners were encouraged to take an active part in the workings of their parish. As a result, parish councils and advisory committees have become an important part of the Catholic American Church. By the end of the 1960's one out of every four persons in the United States was a Catholic, giving this country the third largest Catholic population in the world. In Everett, the Catholic population had gone from a minority

group to the majority in less than 100 years. Although it seemed an insurmountable task, the decrees of Vatican II were implemented. The rectory became the center of countless meetings. The priests now celebrated Mass facing the people, and the altar was moved closer to the congregation.



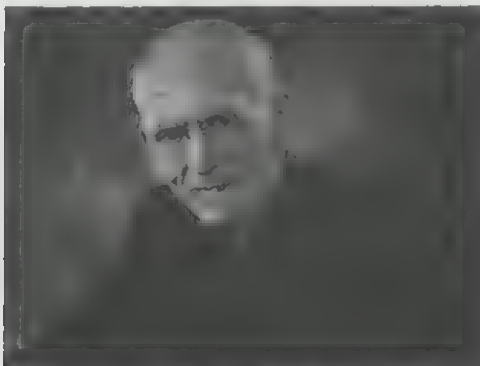
On January 19, 1970 Monsignor Hartigan retired as Pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish but remained in residence as Pastor-Emeritus. His Pastorate was characterized by kindness and love.

On November 21, 1978 the parish was saddened to learn of the death of Monsignor Edward Hartigan at St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham. Cardinal Medeiros was the celebrant at the funeral Mass on November 27, at the Immaculate Conception, the church Monsignor had so fondly loved. He was an exceptionally devoted priest, especially in caring for the less fortunate. Countless were his personal charities, known only to himself.





Father John J. Sheehan became our sixth Pastor and was formally installed on Sunday, March 8, 1970. The new Pastor was known throughout the Diocese for his successful work with youth. While a curate at Sacred Heart Parish, Malden, he had organized the Crusaders, a championship drum and bugle corps whose members formed the nucleus of the famed Lt. Norman Prince Post, V.F.W. musical championship corps following World War II. He had also founded and operated a summer camp for children in West Gloucester known as Stella Maris. Father Sheehan carried on an extensive youth program and holds the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award. He was



ordained in 1933, and after service in Malden became a Navy Chaplain in the Pacific area. He was at the Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida and then went with the 31st Marines to the Marianas. Father Sheehan was President of the N.E. Chapter of the National Military Chaplains' Association and was a member of the National Executive Association. Previous assignments

included: The Immaculate Conception, Winchester, St. Mary of the Annunciation, Danvers, St. Rita, Haverhill, (Pastor) and St. Joseph, Amesbury (Pastor). We were again blessed with a very devoted and experienced leader.

During the early seventies major liturgical changes took place. The kneeling position to receive Holy Communion gave way to a standing position. A new directive allowed Mass to be celebrated on Saturday afternoon and evening in addition to the Sunday Masses. This ruling went into effect in the Spring of 1970.

Shortly after Father Sheehan's arrival, the possibility of the Immaculate Conception School being closed demanded his undivided attention. Catholic schools, even those with new modern facilities closed down as teaching orders diminished, costs rose, and enrollments dropped. Interested parishioners, from all sectors of the parish met with the priests and sisters to evaluate the school, primarily as to its necessity in Everett. Could St. Anthony's School in Everett and Our Lady of Grace in Chelsea suffice for those children desirous of Catholic School education? The argument presented to the Reverend Mother of the Sisters of St. Joseph and her counselors, was sufficient to keep the school open. Father Sheehan, a man of deep spiritual conviction with concern for the education of the youth, spiritually, academically and physically, recognized immediately the necessity for renovating and remodeling the school so that these goals could be achieved in a more comfortable and pleasant atmosphere.



Catholics were still in the process of embracing the many changes now brought to their religious lives. We had come to the age of "Jazz" and "Folk" Masses, congregational singing and lay lectors. On Christmas Eve, 1974, Pope Paul VI designated 1975 as a Roman Catholic Holy Year, a new year of grace, spiritual renewal and reconciliation, prayer, penance and devotion. What made the Holy Year different in our time was the theme of "Reconciliation" proclaimed by Pope Paul VI. Pope Paul turned the direction of the Holy Year of 1975 toward spiritual inner renewal for each individual and reconciliation of man with God. On Sunday, September 14, 1975, before tens of thousands of spectators gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Paul VI celebrated the Canonization of Blessed Mother Seton. Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton (1774-1821) was the first person born in America to be elevated to Sainthood.

Programs that grew out of the Second Vatican Council included a new emphasis on instruction in connection with the administration of all sacraments. Parents must now take an active part in sacramental preparation for their children.

Father John Sheehan retired on June 20, 1977. He is the only living former Pastor of the Immaculate Conception and now makes his home in Sun City, Arizona.

Father Edmund J. Sviokla, our present Pastor, came to us in June of 1977. He arrived in Everett from Roxbury where he had been Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish. Among his talents, is his extraordinary ability as a fund raiser, having headed the Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal from 1976 to 1978. Born in Brockton on September 3, 1926, he received his early education in the Brockton Public Schools. His seminary years were at St. John's and he was ordained to the priesthood on April 11, 1951. Father Sviokla formerly served as an associate at St. Anthony's in Allston, St. George's in Framingham, St. Thomas in Jamaica Plain and St. John's in Peabody. He was elected President of the Priests' Senate in 1970 and has served on the Archdiocesan Board of Education since 1968 to the present time. In the spring of 1984, the newly appointed Archbishop Bernard Law named him to the Archbishop's Committee of Organizational Study.

Since coming to this parish, Fr. Sviokla has seen to major renovations of the church's physical structure. He improved the lower church by dividing it into a chapel and a church hall with kitchen and restroom facilities; he has had installed a handicapped ramp making the liturgy accessible to our special needs people. He has installed a new heating system and, most importantly, he has improved the upper church by making it into a place of worship reflective of the Vatican II norms, while at the same time retaining many of the traditional features of the old church. Every parishioner should take the time to look at the church at some length. Examine the beautiful sacristy, the architecture and the stained glass windows. Father Sviokla has also made similar improvements on other church properties in the parish. He has seen to all of these improvements in consultation with the appropriate Parish Council Commissions, and the decisions have been "community" decisions in the best sense of the word. The parish budget is worked out with the advice and input of members of the parish and is submitted to and voted upon by the full Parish Council. The financial affairs of the parish are available for all parishioners to review and are open for comments. Our parish's financial status runs in the black and it is done without any over-emphasis on money.

The responsibility of the Pastor of a parish for the Christian Education of the people of God is an extremely important function of his office as parish



priest. Father Sviokla's performance in religious education is outstanding. Father is responsible for providing the appropriate resources for the Christian Education of all our parishioners from our youngest children to our senior citizens. These programs and policies that he has implemented reflect his concern for his responsibilities in this area.

Under the direction of Father Sviokla, the parish continues to grow in community building. Its social life is excellent. We have a large range of social programs which provide activities and interest for virtually every parishioner. While many of the parish organizations serve needs other than social, they truly build a network, with the result that the people of God at the Immaculate Conception are truly a parish family. The parish has had activities ranging from a parish-wide picnic, especially attractive to our senior citizens, to an appreciation dinner-dance for all the parish workers. Father has also supported a very vigorous Parents' Association, Sodality, Holy Name Society and other parish organizations which run excellent programs.

No area of life at Immaculate Conception is more important than the on-going renewal of the spiritual life of our parishioners. Father Sviokla's energies and efforts to accomplish an increase in spiritual growth in the people of God have been ceaseless and without equal. He has put great emphasis on providing a Sunday Liturgy of beauty and power. Father has worked with the Liturgy Section of our Spiritual Renewal Commission and with our music director, choir, folk group, acolytes, lectors and extraordinary ministers to accomplish the sharing of the Word of God and the Eucharist in a reverent moving and inspiring



community celebration. Our parish, through our Pastor and his associates, reaches out to people in a very special way at such times as baptisms, weddings and funerals. In touching people with the message of Jesus' love at a moment when it is needed, the parish fosters personal growth.

Our parish is proud to be the only one in the entire Archdiocese to be planning a parish-wide mission for the fifth year in a row. The preceding four missions have been an enormous success. Even the now historical spring blizzard of 1984 did not diminish the attendance at the mission. The people who have been



touched by these missions range from those who have been away from the church for many years to those who have always been faithful. Our Pastor has a great ability to attract and recruit truly fine priests for our parish. Without exception, our priests are grace filled men of diverse abilities who are totally selfless in working for our parish and who bring the message of



Christ to our people. All these efforts by Father Sviokla as teacher, community builder, administrator, are secondary to his role as a simple priest, and it is in this simple capacity as priest that one understands why he is so successful in our parish. His personal relationship with the Lord is apparent to all, and his own deep and abiding faith is contagious. In his relationships with people on a one to one basis, he is a superb worker in the vineyard of the Lord.



The history of the Immaculate Conception Parish would not be complete without recalling some of the activities that took place over the past 100 years. No history can hope to capture them all, since each parishioner has his own special memories, but do you remember:

The long ago bridge/whist parties where friends vied to win the game?

The beautiful novenas, the missions, that made us feel so renewed?

The tradition of walking to the five Catholic Churches in Everett and if one felt real ambitious, two more churches to participate in the custom of visiting seven churches on Holy Thursday?

The athletic programs that could have been the Olympics for the way the youth played the games?

The May Processions, as beautiful as any pageant, with the parishioners lining the streets as the procession wound its way to church for the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Statue, and how that chosen girl cherished her position of placing the Crown?

The wonderful parents association dances where the parents danced away their cares?

The exciting BINGO games, where the heart leapt with the joy of a possible win?

The CYO Band and Drill Team, the thrill of winning a trophy at one of the competitions, whether you were a member, parent or spectator?

The numerous other CYO activities, the great musicals, the plays, dances, ski trips, roller skating, etc.?



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## Parish Activities

### Introduction

In response to the mandate of Jesus given to us over two thousand years ago, "Go therefore and teach all nations" and bearing in mind the need to spread the "Good News", the parishioners of the Immaculate Conception Parish have, in a variety of ways, manifested their understanding of this call during the past century. The call for renewal and lay involvement in parish activities was, in a sense, not "new" to parishioners of the Immaculate Conception.

The following pages will testify to the response our people have always given to the call of Christ and reflect past and present endeavors of our parishioners to spread the "Good News".

### Activities of the Past

Before presenting an overview of parish activities of today, a brief look at some of the interests, concerns, spiritual and social activities of years gone by is helpful in order to see the constant response of the People of God.

#### The Boys Brigade

The Immaculate Conception Boys Brigade was organized under the leadership of Father Edward M. Hartigan. On January 18, 1922, Father Hartigan

requested and was granted permission to organize a Brigade, "military in character and therefore different from the Boy Scouts". The purpose of the Brigade was to afford more opportunities to benefit the boys by association in religious and recreational meetings.

There were approximately 800 members making up the Brigade, a fife, bugle and drum corps and about three regiments of fully uniformed youths.

Under the direction of Mr. Henry Hansen, an accomplished and well known musician, the band became one of the most renowned bands in the State of Massachusetts. They were eagerly sought after for all big Boston parades as well as to parade in all parts of the state. They also took part in numerous county fairs and holiday extravaganzas, including many concerts.

The fife, bugle and drum corps was a huge group. There were at least sixty in this contingent. In the Lynde Group (South Everett) about 20 boys played all the way to every rehearsal held at the old Knights of Columbus Hall on Second Street. Crowds would line the streets to hear the boys play their melodious tunes. Out of this group came the well known "Tin Whistle King", Myles O'Malley, who became famous throughout the state with his Irish Band. While Mr. Hansen directed the band, the Fitzgerald brothers directed the fifes, Mr. McNab the bugles and John Quealey the drums. When these instructors retired, Arthur Conway directed the band and fife bugle and drum corps.



### **St. Mary's Crochet Club**

On October 5, 1937, St. Mary's Crochet Guild was organized by Mrs. Thomas Hill. The object of the Guild was primarily to encourage the art of crocheting... "very easy for school children to learn, and as our class has demonstrated, a very successful pastime".

From a diary we note: "To encourage industry among our school girls in an added line of work to their regular course of studies, a little club, in a grammar school class, creating a very enjoyable atmosphere at the meetings. The girls exchange ideas, vie with each other in getting ahead, develop a keen competitive spirit. It is a healthy diversion producing many good results." The girls who were members of this guild were 10 to 13 years of age. (Unfortunately, we could not determine how long this club remained active.)

### **The Tabernacle Society**

A little known activity without which our Mass and devotions would have had a less finished appearance was the Tabernacle Society. The Society was dedicated to maintaining the cleanliness of the altar, the linens, the decorations and the various vestments. Constant care was required by the women of the Society to keep everything in splendid condition.

### **Reading Circle**

In the late 1930's a reading circle was organized under the direction of Monsignor MacCormack. The first president was Helen Hodgekiss, who now is a Sister of Mercy. The second president was Monica Marshall who is now a sister of Good Counsel.

The meetings were held in the sacristy in the small room to the right of the altar. A "Book Fair" was held at the parish hall with Dorothy Day as the guest speaker. Ms. Day founded the Catholic Worker Movement in the United States.

### **Vacation Bible School**

In the summer of 1949, Agnes, Mary and Helen Dyer requested permission from Monsignor MacCormack to organize a summer Bible class. They had noticed that many of our parish children were attending summer programs outside of their church. Monsignor quickly consented and the Bible school was begun under the leadership of these dedicated women. The school program was held in the morning hours of the summer months. The program consisted of prayers, movies, refreshments, fun, and a trip by bus on Friday to the Seminary. It ran for quite a number of years.

The Vacation Bible School was reorganized in 1976 by Father "Bill" Schmidt and members of the parish. The program included prayers, bible stories with lessons, crafts, singing and refreshments. The priests joined each day in the teaching and fun. Parents were invited to celebrate closing day by participation at Mass. Certificates were awarded to all the children.

Vacation Bible School was a time of sharing our faith.

### **The Band and Drill Team**

In 1953, Father Myron Bullock, a newly ordained priest assigned to this parish, was asked by Monsignor Edward Hartigan to introduce a band and drill team to the youth. The band was named the Immaculate Conception band and the drill team the Coronets. The Coronets was an all girl group. within a very short time both units were ready to take part in parades and exhibitions. In order to take part in competitions, the band and drill team needed uniforms. Since no money had been allotted for this activity, they could not order uniforms. At the suggestion of the uniform company, Father Bullock purchased bolts of material and asked the parents if they would sew uniforms for the children. A meeting was called and although the mothers were most anxious to help outfit the units, no one wanted to





make the first cut in the material. The next day, Father Bullock called on Josephine Todisco, who had not attended the mother's meeting because of the flu. Father appeared at her door with the bolts of material under his arm and asked if she would be kind enough to start the project. Mrs. Todisco asked how many were needed. The response was about 35. She cut the first uniform and the mothers all worked diligently to finish the assignment. Before they were completed, they had sewn 135 uniforms. The band and drill team had become a very popular activity.

As the band and drill team continued to grow, parents began having bingo games, cake sales, dances and fashion shows to raise funds.

By August 1956, the Immaculate Conception Band and Drill team had soared to great heights and they were ready to host the Calvacade of Champions at Everett Stadium. The Calvacade became an annual event attended by bands and drill teams from the CYO music circuit. It was one of a number of outdoor competitions that the band and drill competed in during the spring and summer of each year, as well as the indoor Color Guard Competitions during the winter season. The band and drill team remained active until 1980.

Father Bullock was the first moderator and served until 1956. He was followed by Father Bernard Herlihy, Father Michael Higgins and Father Gerald Fitzgerald. The first music instructor was Mr. Charles Boy and the Drill Master, Mr. Charles DeAngelis.

The purpose of this activity was to instill discipline, to promote a wholesome spirit of competition, and to provide an opportunity for a close relationship between the young people and the church.

We think that the goal was reached, for so many of the members of these units are now leaders in the church and the world today.

## Activities of Today

The preceding sketch of past activities at the Immaculate Conception Parish gives a brief glimpse into what parish life was like over the years.

It is important that we, like our predecessors in the faith, continue to answer Jesus' call. The life of our parish today is vibrant and responsive to this call and it is with pride that an overview of the life of the Immaculate Conception Parish in this Centennial Year is presented.

## The Parish Council

The Second Vatican Council recommended that a renewed emphasis be placed on the responsibility of the laity to take an active part in the life of the church. One way of making this responsibility visible has been the establishment of the Parish Council, in which lay representatives of the parish may involve themselves in carrying out the parish programs.

The first Parish Council at the Immaculate Conception was organized in 1972. Joseph C. Hogan, Esq., served as the first president. The Council was formed to help the Pastor with the responsibility for the life of the Church in the parish, to act as a voice of the people to the Pastor and to assist the Pastor with administration, thus encouraging a vigorous and effective lay apostolate.

In April of 1982, a Constitution was drawn up and accepted. The Council consists of a president, vice president and secretary elected for a two-year term, the Pastor, associate Pastors, the Principal of the parish school, the C.C.D. Director of Religious Education and a Sister representative elected annually by the Sisters serving the parish. Also there are Commission Chairpersons, elected for the six standing Commissions. The President at this writing is Frances X. Hogan, Esq., interestingly, the daughter of the first parishioner to hold this office. The Vice-President is Marilou Cummings and the Secretary is Brian Lynch. The meetings of the Council are held on the first Sunday of each month, October through June.

The six standing commissions of the Parish Council which will be more fully described are: Spiritual Development, Christian Service, Christian Education, Administration, Youth and Activities. Within the umbrella of these six standing commissions, virtually all of the parish's on-going programs and activities are conducted.

## Spiritual Development Commission

The Spiritual Development Commission is responsible for providing programs for the spiritual renewal of our parishioners as well as making certain that our Sunday and daily liturgies are faith strengthening experiences. The Chairman of the Commission is Roger Cummings and the Commission is divided into two sections. One section with Father Sviokla as the moderator, is charged with running the very important Parish-wide Mission which occurs in the Spring of each year.

The Liturgy Section of the Spiritual Development Commission is moderated by Father Thomas McCabe. The Liturgy Committee tries to develop an understanding that all members of the parish share a responsibility for the liturgy. The members work with the Priests and parish staff in planning, initiating and evaluating worship experiences. Included within the responsibility of the Liturgy Commission are the Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Boys, Ushers and Music Program.

## Eucharistic Ministers

In the worship of the Immaculate Conception Church, a number of lay people have been commissioned as special ministers of the Eucharist, helping the Priests with the distribution of Communion. This responsibility is a tremendous privilege. It provides lay people the opportunity to bring the Body of Christ to their brothers and sisters.

## The Lectors

The role of the Lector has changed significantly over the past few years. The Lectors, as they are now known, started as commentators and were seated at a microphone to one side of the main altar. They explained to the congregation the various parts of the Mass when the liturgical changes were taking place. Thereafter, the commentator was moved to the altar where he became a participant by reading the Epistle and leading in other prayers, along with some commentary. At that time, the Lectors were few, and for many years all of the Masses did not necessarily have them. Participation has improved considerably and the Lectors are now an elite group of men and women attending at every Mass. The responsibility of the Lector is similar to that of the Eucharistic Minister—to bring Christ to the people of God through the proclamation of his Word.

## The Altar Boys

The Immaculate Conception altar boys have a long history of faithful service which goes back almost to the beginning of our parish. There are no records to provide us with accurate information for our narrative, but from the early twenties it is evident that we had more than our share of willing boys and young men to assist at all our devotions.

Up to the mid-sixties the young boys, aspiring to become altar boys, were taught all the prayers in Latin. When the Latin was perfected and all the services learned, the young boy became an altar boy. The dress, requiring black socks and shoes, as well as the most perfect attire, was very strict. Also important were promptness and cleanliness. The mothers of the altar boys took turns washing, bleaching, mending and ironing the surplices worn by the boys at Mass. There was seldom even a daily Mass that was without the service of at least one altar boy.



Today, with the proclamations of Vatican II, the boys no longer learn the Latin prayers and the dress has been more relaxed. The boys don't remain in service as long as they did years ago. It was not unusual then for an altar boy to serve in excess of ten years. Under the direction of Father Joseph M. O'Sullivan many of our young boys are willing to donate their time and service to our parish.

Many thanks to Father O'Sullivan and to all of our altar boys, past and present, for their service.

## The Ushers

There are no records available to research a much unnoticed and unsung group of people, our ushers. They are a friendly, helpful group of men who maintain a staff at each Saturday and Sunday Mass, including the seat money table. Their duties include ushering parishioners to their seats and taking up the collections at the Masses. They contribute in a significant way to the spirit of the church services. It would be impossible to publicly recognize every man who ever served as an usher because of the large number. Some members have served for over fifty years.

To each and every man, we give our sincere thanks for a job so faithfully and well done.

## Music Program

For over one hundred years we have had the finest quality music at our church. Miss Annette Hoogs was the first organist. She married Mr. F.F. Driscoll, the soloist. Together they provided beautiful music at all the Masses and weddings in the beginning years of our parish. Mrs. Driscoll composed a special "Ave Maris" that was sung at the Masses. She also organized the first church choir.

Mr. Daniel Shea succeeded Mrs. Driscoll as organist and choir director. He initiated the first all boys choir at the church.

In the 1920's Mary Bowen organized a younger group of girls to sing in the choir. Through the years her all girl choir formed an annual tradition of singing and placing flowers at the foot of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary every morning at the 7 o'clock Mass each day of May.

In 1936 a talented parishioner, Mr. Daniel S. Twohig, wrote the lyrics for the composition "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" composed by Geoffrey O'Hara. The composition sold several million copies through the years, according to his son, Edward J. Twohig. His son tells us that the writer and composer were introduced as a Protestant and Catholic writing team everyone assuming that O'Hara was the Catholic and Twohig the Protestant, but indeed it was the reverse. Few Catholic churches play this song today, but the Protestant churches continue to use it at this time.

At this writing the organist is Gary Marks. The emphasis today is on congregational participation in music. In addition to our traditional choir, we have a





Folk Group lead by the principal guitarist, James Thistle. The Folk Group began as a CYO activity under the direction of Father William Schmidt. It later became an all people activity including the young adults. Father Gerald Fitzgerald wrote the lyrics and music to the very beautiful "Come Let Me Love You" that is sung at our mission renewal each year. We have indeed had the very best of music at the Immaculate Conception in our first one hundred years.

### **Christian Service Commission**

The fruit of Christian living is expressed in Christian concern, outreach and response through service. The Immaculate Conception Parish seeks to involve people of all age levels in the works of Christian service through Shut-in Masses for the sick and elderly, the Parish Blood Bank Program, C.P.R. training, the Clothing Drive and Food Basket collections. The Chairlady of the Commission is Mrs. Helen Sandorse.

As Christian people we are continually open to God's will and His Spirit, freely choosing and assuming responsibility for our choices, Christian people in whose life faith makes a difference.

### **Christian Education Commission**

The role of the Christian Education Commission is broad and its responsibilities are great. Its job is to assist the Pastor in his role as teacher and to provide religious education for all ages in our parish family and for all walks of life. The Commission Chairman is Lawrence Arinello and the Moderator is Father Sviokla. Within the umbrella of the Christian Education Commission are the Parish School, Parish School Board and the Religious Education Program of the Parish.

### **The Parish School, Religious Education Program, and the School Board**

The parish school, as mentioned earlier, had its beginning at the convent building in 1921. For nearly fifty years, education at the Immaculate Conception School flourished under the supervision of the Pastors and Sisters of Saint Joseph. The school consistently graduated students with excellent academic skills as well as young people of good moral character.





The late 1960's brought about major changes in education throughout the entire country as well as at our parish school. In 1970, with the appointment of Father John J. Sheehan as Pastor, a great many innovations took place. Under his direction Sister Mary Myles Tracey, Principal, with the Faculty, established guide lines concerning the philosophy of the school. A child's academic potential was developed to the fullest but more importantly a child's moral and spiritual values were developed so, that he would learn to think and act in a way which was consistent with the example of the teachings of Christ. By providing high quality, value-centered academic instruction in a Christian atmosphere of love and service, the school imparted a solid foundation from which the child was able to grow and develop morally, intellectually and physically and sought to lead students toward a personal faith commitment to Christ. To this end, Father Sheehan worked untiringly with the staff until health obliged him to resign in 1977.

The school continued to advance under the leadership of the succeeding Pastor, Father Edmund Sviokla and the Principal. In 1981 a kindergarten classroom was added bringing the total classrooms to eleven. A guidance Counselor was added to the staff in September of 1982 to aid with the added stress of daily living of students and their families. A computer was purchased in 1983 and presently an introductory course is given to grades 7 and 8 with each student receiving "hands on" experience. At this time the parish school has what is professionally called an "integrated" faculty composed of religious women from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Sisters of Saint Dominic as well as several devoted lay teachers. The principal is Sr. Clair Mahan.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Board of Education of the Archdiocese of Boston, the Immaculate Conception Advisory Board was established. The primary role of the Board was to develop basic policies governing the operation of the parish school. These directives were developed through a committee system and proper study and in-depth consideration was given to each decision.

It was during Father Sheehan's Pastorate that the Sunday School concept was changed. He arranged formal religious education classes for the public school students to be taught during the week rather than on Sunday after Mass. This procedure is now known as the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (C.C.D.). The years since 1978 have seen the development of Sacramental programs for families with students preparing for the reception of First Eucharist, First Penance and Confirmation. In addition, greater numbers of the laity have been recruited to work with students. These dedicated parishioners participate, regularly, in on-going preparation and enrichment programs to enable them to share our Roman Catholic heritage with the

young people of our parish. Together with the staff of our parochial school, they are engaged in the formal process of certification as recommended by the Archdiocese of Boston for all religious educators.

In 1978 a new vision of parish religious education began to take shape. Father Sviokla acquired the services of a full-time Religious Education Director, Miss Veronica Callahan, who established a Religious Education Office in the parish school. Miss Callahan organized the religious program for the children of both parochial and public schools. The Religious Education Office has evolved into a center of stimulation for teacher and student guidance, resources and teacher enrichment, liturgical and para-liturgical experience, sacramental programs and extra-curricular opportunities for students.

This year has seen the culmination of efforts begun. With a core team of lay persons our priests have developed a regular program of Adult Continuing Christian Development. They offer a variety of renewal and enrichment opportunities to update our understanding and appreciation of our church today.

### **School Parents' Association**

This organization was formed in 1973 for the purpose of aiding the Parish School and Convent and of promoting better acquaintance among parents. At its inception, the Association had as its goal the raising of funds to subsidize the school budget to prevent the closing of the school. Under the able direction of Sister Catherine Coyle as Advisor, Mrs. Betty Comeau as the first President, The Board of Directors and the volunteer mothers, the organization became an immediate success.

The funds that are raised each year provide for specific items for the school. The organization gives moral and physical support to our Sisters and Teachers, aids in student social activities and promotes social functions which have brought the parents together to form a closer "family."

The President at this writing is Mrs. Frances Paglia. The organization sponsors six to ten major events each year, probably the best known of which is the Luau each spring.

We wish this wonderful group of parents much success and extend our thanks for their great support.

### **Administration Commission**

Responsibility for preparing our parish and school budgets and overseeing the physical condition of the parish plant has been given to the Administration Commission which is Chaired by Charles Bourque. Father Sviokla serves as moderator. In a business-like and practical manner, this Commission carefully and prudently controls expenses and suggests ways to raise funds. Credit should be given to this Commission since the parish is running in the black and all parishioners can be proud of the condition of the several buildings maintained by the Parish.

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## Youth Commission

The Immaculate Conception Parish has been and is known throughout the Archdiocese of Boston for the quality of its youth programs. With Father George Morin as Moderator of the CYO and Father Joseph O'Sullivan as Moderator of the Junior CYO, the parish boasts a youth program virtually without equal in the Archdiocese. Building on a strong tradition of youth participations, the parish's program emphasizes all aspects of the life of the young adult—social, intellectual, athletic but most importantly spiritual. Monthly meetings are held for the teenagers and a prayer group has been formed. The parish has proudly participated in a variety of CYO sports events, in CYO shows, in dances and in Archdiocesan-wide conventions. It is through our youth that the adults are able to pass on the faith with the hope that the gift of that faith will be a light to the world.

## Activities Commission

The role of this Commission is really to be certain that all of the large variety of parish events are being carried on without conflicting with each other and in an orderly fashion. Gerald Foster is Chairman and Father Thomas McCabe is Moderator of the Activities Commission.

The Activities of the parish represent a diverse group of interest, all of which look toward one call—a response to the call of Jesus Christ to each of us to spread the "Good News."

## The Catholic Youth Organization (C.Y.O.)

The Catholic Youth Organization of Immaculate Conception Parish has been established as the means by which the parish can bring together the youth of high

school age as a distinct group of persons with special interests and needs. The goal of the C.Y.O. is two-fold: first to foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person and to draw young people into responsible participation in the life of the church and Community.

Membership is open to all youth of high school age in the parish. Young people who live outside the parish are also welcome as members. The responsibilities of a member include: regular participation at the Eucharist, consistent witness to Christian values in one's words and actions, and regular participation in Spiritual, Social, Cultural and Athletic activities as a means to becoming a well-rounded, Christian person.

## Catholic Daughters of the America

Court Everett #324 was instituted in December of 1917 through the joint efforts of Miss Mae Powell of Court Regina, Malden, and Mrs. William Crowley of Everett. The charter members of Court Everett were a group of young women who worked with the Everett Council #397 of the Knights of Columbus. They were first known as "The Ladies of Columbus" and later became affiliated with the Daughters of Isabella. As they increased their membership, they became known as the Catholic Daughters of America. Through the combined efforts of Mrs. John Salmon, Worthy State Regent of the Massachusetts Catholic Daughters of America, and Mrs. Augustus Crowley, Grand Regent of Court St. Agnes, Arlington, Court Everett was organized. Assisting in many charitable activities, they became one of the leading courts in Massachusetts.

In 1940, Court Everett was re-organized. A membership drive was conducted and with a total





membership of 75, the Everett Court began one of the most fruitful decades in the history of the Massachusetts State Catholic Daughters.

During World War II, the Court supplied Chaplain's kits, bandages and medical needs for the Red Cross and the Medical Missionaries, entertained service men and visited the wounded. Mrs. Arthur (Mary) Cunningham, a Court member, is credited with having conducted the most successful war bond drive in all of Massachusetts.

Each year the Court donates to the Cardinal's Charities. Other charities assisted are: Little Sisters of the Poor, Little Sisters of the Assumption, Poor Clare Nuns, Covenant House, Madonna Hall, Para Tours, Medical Missionaries of Mary, and Bishops in India and Brazil.

The first Regent was Elizabeth Ahearn. The present Regent is Rosemary McHatton. There have been only

three chaplains: Monsignor Edward Hartigan, Father William O'Neil and Monsignor Charles Hyland.

The motto of the Court is "Unity and Charity."

### **Everett Catholic Women's Club**

In 1930, according to a parish announcement, the Everett Catholic Women's Club was organized. The club presented two extravaganzas a year. One was presented by the dramatic group and one by the choral group. The members collected canned goods for distribution to the needy. During the Christmas season the good women brought and distributed toys to the less fortunate children of the parish. The organization is not active at this time, although some of the former members meet twice a year to renew acquaintances.

### **The Ladies Sodality**

The Ladies Sodality was first organized in 1886. Meetings were held on Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock. The first prefect was Mrs. F.F. Driscoll. The Sodality was a well-attended activity, and in 1934, with Father McCall as the moderator, the membership soared to over 1000.

The organization had an active bowling club and sponsored large bridge and whist parties. The Ladies Sodality has seen its number dwindle in the past few years. It is difficult for working mothers to join in the devotions that were so much a part of the lives of our mothers and grandmothers.

For those that have kept the spirit of the Sodality alive, we are very grateful. The present prefect is Albina Comeau. The Sodality attends First Friday Mass, followed by a luncheon and Penny Sale each month. Among other good works, the proceeds from the organization have outfitted the kitchen of the Parish





Hall. It would be difficult to recognize any particular individual in this organization without the possibility of leaving out the name of a much devoted member. We wish then, to extend to all of the Sodality members, past and present, a sincere "thank you" for a job well done.

### **The Holy Name Society**

The history of the Holy Name Society of Jesus within the history of the Immaculate Conception Parish is a very pleasant one. This society was organized in 1886; Stanley F. Hoogs was elected the first president and Father Joseph Mohan was the first spiritual director.

Some of the many programs through the years include the Annual Communion Breakfast, distinguished speakers at the monthly meetings, basketball, football and bowling leagues. At the suggestion of the sports-minded men of the parish, "Sports Night" under the direction of Father Thomas Lane was instituted. Another very popular activity was the "Catholic Club" under the direction of Father Edward Hartigan.

Probably one of the most active periods in the history of the Holy Name Society were the years 1940 through 1960. The society at that time was comprised of outstanding leaders.

At the present time John Troy is the president.

### **The Legion of Mary**

The Legion of Mary was founded in Ireland in 1921 by Frank Duff, a layman. The purpose of the Legion is to perform spiritual works of mercy. It is dedicated to Mary, Mediatrix of all Graces. The Legion offers union with Jesus Christ through Mary, His Mother. It operates on the strict principle of service to the Church and the people of God. It is intended to bring sanctification to its members and to every individual to whom its members minister.

The Legion of Mary spread rapidly over Ireland. By 1932 it had spread to the United States, and the first Praesidium was established in the Archdiocese of Boston at St. Mary's in Cambridge. The individual parish units are designated as a Praesidium, a Latin word which was used to designate a detachment of the Roman Legion performing a special duty. The legion is presently established in nearly a thousand dioceses throughout the world.

The Legion of Mary was first organized in this parish in February of 1935, under the spiritual direction of Father Thomas MacCormack. It was the eighth Praesidium in the Archdiocese and was known as Our Lady, Help of Christians. The first president of this organization was Mrs. Alice Walsh. Meetings were held weekly. Members seek personal sanctification by visiting the sick and the elderly in nursing homes and by helping the disabled and shut-ins in any way possible, to make their burden lighter and their day brighter.

We thank these dedicated women for their unending works of mercy.

### **The Pre-Cana Programs**

The Pre-Cana program in our parish was introduced by Father Peter J. Casey, Coordinator of the Family Life Office for the Archdiocese of Boston. Father Casey is at this writing President-Elect of the National Family Life Apostolate which ministers to engaged couples, married couples, separated and divorced couples and christian family life.

Acknowledging that this was a very active parish, Father Casey felt there was a need for a Pre-Cana program that would minister to our engaged couples. With Father Gerald Fitzgerald as the first moderator, and five married couples, namely: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Desmond, Mr. and Mrs. David Goud-Johnsen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Iannuzzi and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Strahan the program was instituted.

The program works towards a model of marriage preparation for engaged couples. The discussions are directed towards establishing an increased communication between partners, adjustments in marriage, sexuality and family life. The number of team couples now number twelve and they serve anywhere from 35 to 40 couples each program, two programs per year.

The team leaders in helping to prepare the engaged couples for marriage adjustment have found that they have gained in their relationship with one another as well.

### **Society of St. Vincent dePaul**

This organization is one of the least known parish activities. It receives little public recognition and yet is most essential. The Society of St. Vincent dePaul began when the first Conference was formed in Paris in 1833. Its members were eight young men who belonged to a debating society composed of students, many of whom were atheists. These atheists were both bitter and aggressive in their attacks on the church. After one of these bitter debates, Frederick Ozanam, generally accepted as the Founder of the Society, said to his companions: "How sad it is to see Catholics, to see our Holy Mother, the Church, thus attacked and ridiculed, let us of course, remain in the breach and face the attacks, but do you not feel, like me, a desire for the necessity of having outside this combative Conference, another meeting consisting exclusively of Christian Friends and wholly devoted to charity. Does it not seem to be time to join action to words and to affirm by works the vitality of our faith?" This said, they met together and formed the first Conference choosing St. Vincent dePaul for their model and patron, and took upon themselves the visitation of the poor in their homes. Through this great work, which has become so essentially characteristic of the Society, its members are brought within the reach of priceless lessons of Christian resignation and practical piety. This was the

seed from which sprang the Society of St. Vincent dePaul. The Conference spread throughout Europe, and the first Conference in the United States was formed in St. Louis, Missouri in 1845.

The first Conference organized in our parish was in 1876 with Mr. S. F. Hoogs as the first president. The conference was reorganized in 1884 and Mr. John McSorely chosen president.

The organization is very active today in our parish. A Conference is not a bureau of public relief; it does not assume the public duty of aiding all the poor of a parish or a city. It does all it can do with its means, to help the poor in body and soul, in the way advised by the Rule of the Society. It has no desire to interfere in the slightest way with any association or person in their separate works of charity. The object of the Society is the benefit of the soul of the individual member. Visiting and aiding the poor are the means to this end, and not the end itself.

The conference consists of four men at this time. The help given the poor and the people responsible for this assistance are not readily known because the regulations of the Society are such that their good works must be kept anonymous.

Our greatest thanks and prayers go to these extremely dedicated workers for their devotion to the Society of St. Vincent dePaul. We can share in their financial aid by frequent contributions to the collection boxes at the doors of the Church.

### Scouting

This history of our parish is partly a record of physical development but in a deeper sense it is the record of dedicated men and women the great majority of whom must remain nameless. To write an accurate account of scouting in our parish poses a particular problem since no official records of the origin of scouting within the parish exist.

It is generally recognized that in the 1920's Mr. Thomas Maloney did organize both cub scouts and sea scouts. In March of 1947, at the request of Father William O'Neil scouting was reorganized within the parish. The children of the parish were joining scouting programs outside of the Catholic Church. Recognizing that this would take our children away from the parish, Father arranged for an active scouting program at this time.

Mr. Eugene Famolari was the first Cub Master under the first charter in 1948 and Mrs. Ruth Famolari, the first Head Den Mother. The Immaculate Conception Scouting Program became part of the Boston Council of Boy Scouts, having troop 12 and pack 11.

The cub scouts and weblo's are now under the direction of Mrs. Jean Thistle, Committee Chairperson. The cubs range in ages from 8 to 10 and are divided into dens with an equal number of Den Mothers. Meetings are held weekly with emphasis on community service, responsibility as a citizen, outdoor adventures,



helping your neighbor and arts and crafts. The outstanding events are the Annual Blue and Gold Banquet, the Pinewood Derby and the Father and son camp out. The boys strive to receive achievement awards leading to the Parvuli Dei Medal for cub scouts and Ad Altare Dei Medal, the highest award in Catholic Scouting for the boy scout.

The girl scouts were organized in March of 1952 in our parish. Again, Ruth Famolari was the first leader and organizer. The organizer at this writing is Mrs. Carol Menninger. The girl scouts are made up of Brownies ages 6 to 8, Juniors 9 to 11, Cadets 12 to 14 and Seniors 14 to 18. Recently organized is a group of five year olds, the Daisies. The girls are divided by individual grade levels with a leader and adult assistant in attendance at all meetings which are held weekly at the parish hall. The projects of the girl scouts are: community service, to be helpful to one another and to the less fortunate, and arts and crafts. Some of the outstanding events for the girls are their special girl scout week in March, the Annual Government Day and Appreciation Day at which time the girls bring baked goods to the people who have served the community, namely; firemen, policemen, library employees, etc. The girls strive for the Marian Medal, given annually on Marian Sunday in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The highest national Girl Scout Award is the "Thank You" badge of which Mrs. Ruth Famolari is a recipient. Mr. and Mrs. Famolari received numerous awards including the coveted Silver Beaver Award. Many of the leaders have received many medals for recognition of work in scouting. These good men and women receive no monetary pay for the work they do. In Mrs. Famolari's words concerning scouting at the Immaculate "the greatest award of all is the joy in the children's faces and the satisfaction in seeing the children receive their own individual achievement awards."



Dozens of names come to mind and they should all be thanked for the work that they have done, but for the fear of an omission we will make no attempt to list them.

Thanks to all, you have had a tremendous influence on the physical mental and moral growth of our children in their formative years.

### **The 1000 Club**

This club was formed ten years ago with John Muise as Chairman. The purpose of the club is to raise money for the school. Participating parishioners, limited to 1000 members are given a number, and on the second Tuesday of each month, numbers are drawn announcing the lucky number holders. The top prize is \$1000.00 followed by smaller cash prizes. The present Chairman is Charles Bourque, doing a very fine job.

### **The Strawberry Festival**

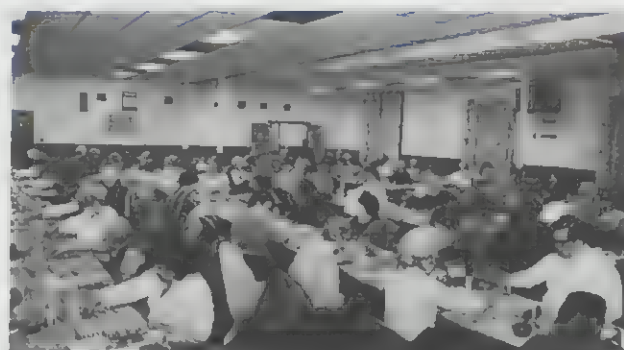
For many years, "The Parish Fair" which was also called the "Bazaar" was an integral part of parish activity. Besides being a substantial fund raiser, it was considered a vital, pre-Christmas social cooperative effort. The Parish Fair was held in the Parish Hall on Chelsea-Street. The Fair itself took place on all three levels of the building, and although the Parish Hall had been renovated, at great expense, it was felt that it was both a hardship and an inconvenience for some to manage the many stairs between floors. After much discussion, the Fair Committee decided that there were, perhaps, too many fairs scheduled by religious denominations and civic organizations in the City of Everett, at this particular time of the year. It was suggested therefore, that springtime, the month of May, would be the ideal time to hold a Strawberry Festival.

In 1978, the unanimous decision was made that the Everett Armory would be the best location for the Strawberry Festival. The Armory provided a large area in which to conduct all aspects of the Fair on one level. It also allowed the Fair Committee to plan some indoor/outdoor activities.

The Strawberry Festival was a huge success, and it was decided it should be an annual event at the Armory. This activity has proven to be one of the biggest fund-raising and social endeavors of the parish. Joseph Carr and James Lenehan have served as Chairmen for several years and have done an extraordinary job.

### **Bingo**

The Bingo games sponsored by so many Catholic Churches have been the basis of many jokes for years, however, in spite of all the notoriety associated with Bingo games, there is a very valid reason for having them. In our parish, the monies collected have been a very important source of revenue and have paid for many renovations that would otherwise have not been accomplished.



In 1970, when Father Sheehan became Pastor of our parish, there was a great need for money in order for our parish school to survive. In addition money was needed for renovating the convent, the rectory, the church and the parish hall. When Father Sheehan saw the insurmountable task before him, the urgency to accomplish the tasks and the lack of funds, he asked his friend from the V.F.W., George Newman for help. George suggested the Bingo games (then called Blitz). Father readily agreed and George immediately set upon the task of organizing the games. Since there was no money to fund the project, George started with money from his own personal funds. He begged and borrowed to make the arrangements for the first game. He called for volunteers to scrub the parish hall walls, he asked for help in installing emergency lighting, he begged for donations of coffee and refreshments, he borrowed equipment from the American Legion, and then asked the volunteers (twelve in all) to donate enough money to buy twelve tables. The response to all his requests were tremendous and the games began.

The first games were small with about 100 people in attendance. They did show a profit, however, and soon the games grew both in the number in attendance and the prizes that were given. The Bingo games are a huge success in our parish and continue to bring in a great source of revenue. The money is used wherever the Pastor finds a need. The games could not exist without the wonderful people who volunteer their services under George's leadership.

THANK YOU one and all.



All history is the result of what men and women of character, dedication, enterprise, ability and perseverance make it. We have been blessed with this type of individual in our parish.

A new century begins, untouched and fresh, yet following the previous century and therefore already part of history. The world, our country, the church is ours. We are now making the history of tomorrow. If we believe in the future as sincerely and courageously as our first century parishioners did, our parish will find no boundaries.



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